

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to protest against Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. I feel that this is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. I think it is wrong for the double reasons that local stations are being forced to comply, and secondly that it is so blatantly politically motivated. Such a documentary is appropriate at other times in order to allow reasoned debate and allow time for rebuttal. Two weeks before such a fractious election displays a disturbing misuse of power.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely

Gavin Maxwell